

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 12382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: DANIEL HOFFFEL -- SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH
AND THE FAMILY

1. BORN IN STRASBOURG ON JANUARY 23, 1929, DANIEL HOFFFEL COMES FROM AN OLD AND DISTINGUISHED ALSATIAN FAMILY (HIS FATHER ROBERT WAS SENATOR FROM THE BAS-RHIN FROM 1948 TO 1959). HE STUDIED POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG, GRADUATING IN 1951, AND THEN EARNED A DOCTOR OF LAW IN 1955, AGAIN AT STRASBOURG. HOFFFEL HAS SERVED ONCE BEFORE IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BEING ATTACHED BRIEFLY (JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1954) TO THE CABINET OF GENERAL PIERRE KOENIG, THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE.

2. HOFFFEL HAS LONG BEEN PROMINENT IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SERVING AS SECRETARY GENERAL (1959-1974) AND THEN AS DELEGATE GENERAL OF THE BAS-RHIN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

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COMMITTEE OF ALSACE (1976-77). HIS FIRST ELECTED OFFICE WAS IN 1965 AS MAYOR OF HANDSCHUHEIM, A SMALL VILLAGE OF 200 INHABITANTS WEST OF STRASBOURG.

3. IN 1977, HOFFFEL ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDED TO BE AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SOLICITED BY BOTH THE RPR AND CDS TO TAKE A SPOT ON

THEIR SLATES. HE REFUSED AND INSTEAD HEADED A UNIFIED "MAJORITY" LIST WHICH WAS ELECTED. HOFFEL CONSIDERS HIMSELF A CENTRIST (CDS), BUT IS STILL FORMALLY UNASSOCIATED WITH ANY PARTY IN THE SENATE SO THAT HE MIGHT MORE ACCURATELY BE LABELED AS SIMPLY "PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY".

4. HOFFEL IS KNOWN AS A MAN OF GREAT ABILITY AND ENERGY; HIS LEADERSHIP CAPACITY HAS RECENTLY EARNED HIM THE NICKNAME OF "LOCOMOTIVE." HE SPEAKS GERMAN AND SOME ENGLISH, IS MARRIED WITH TWO DAUGHTERS. HOFFEL ENJOYS GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ALSATIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND IS TRUSTED AND LIKED BY LOCAL LABOR LEADERS AS WELL. HE WAS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1969.
HARTMAN

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